

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2165

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PL  
SUBJ: PRESS COMMENTARY ON CONTROVERSIAL NEW POLISH FILMS

REF: (A) WARSAW 1750 (B) WARSAW 1698

1. SUMMARY: POLISH PRESS TREATMENT OF TWO CONTROVERSIAL FILMS, "MAN OF MARBLE", DIRECTED BY ANDRZEJ WAJDA, AND "PROTECTIVE COLORING", DIRECTED BY KRZYSZTOF ZANUSSI, REFLECTS THE CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE OF THE AUTHORITIES IN RELEASING THE FILMS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST REVIEWS OF "MAN OF MARBLE", WHICH LAGGED BEHIND THE RELEASE OF ONLY FIVE PRINTS OF THE FILM, WERE CRITICAL. TRYBUNA LUDU OF MARCH 17 PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH MICHAL KRAJEWSKI, ONE OF THE BRICKLAYERS WHO WAS A MODEL FOR WAJDA'S FILM HERO, BIRKUT. KRAJEWSKI SAID WAJDA NEVER "PIERCED THE CURTAIN" IN WHICH THE WORKERS OF THE EARLY 1950'S "WERE WRAPPED BY ART AND PROPAGANDA." HE SAID WAJDA'S ATTACK ON THE "MYTH OF A WORKER'S WORK" FILLED HIM WITH BITTERNESS AND THAT, IN THE END, WAJDA LOST HIS CHANCE TO MAKE A MASTERPIECE. WOJECIECH ROSZEWSKI, WRITING IN ARGUMENTY OF MARCH 20, CALLS ZANUSSI'S FILM "A DEFEAT IN THE FIELD OF ONTOLOGY, IN THE FIELD OF SCREENWRITING" AND "A DEFEAT IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY."

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3. FAVORABLE COMMENTARY ON BOTH FILMS APPEARED LATER, IN THE FORM OF A CONVERSATION AMONG JOURNALISTS WITOLD ZALEWSKI, KRZYSZTOF TOEPLITZ, AND ROMAN BRATNY IN THE MARCH 27 EDITION OF "KULTURA". BRATNY QUESTIONS KRAJEWSKI'S PREVIOUS CRITICISMS, SAYING THAT ANY FILM WHICH STIMULATES DISCUSSION IS A SUCCESS IN THAT IT CAN SERVE AS A "SIGNAL FOR POLITICIANS." TOEPLITZ AGREES, ADDING

THAT THE NEW FILMS "REALIZE IN A CERTAIN SENSE THE POSTULATE OF CONSULTATION WITH SOCIETY." HE SAYS, "JUST AS THERE ARE SIGNALS FROM WORKERS, FROM WORK CREWS, AND FROM CERTAIN ACTIVIST GROUPS... EQUALLY IMPORTANT ARE SIGNALS FROM ARTISTS, EXPRESSED IN WORKS OF ART."

4. BRATNY OBSERVES THAT POLAND HAS RECENTLY BEEN ATTACKED ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAYS THAT POLAND RESPONDS WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT IT GUARANTEES THE BASIC RIGHT TO WORK, WHICH IS DISREGARDED IN THE WEST. HE ADVOCATES EXPANDING THE CONCEPT OF THE RIGHT TO WORK TO INCLUDE THE "RIGHT TO CREATE" AND TO "PRESENT THE RESULTS TO OUR SOCIETY." THE "FATE OF THE RECENT FILMS" IS THE BEST ARGUMENT AGAINST CRITICS OF CONDITIONS IN POLAND, HE CONCLUDES.

5. COMMENT: THE "KULTURA" INTERVIEW EMPLOYS PHRASES FROM THE OFFICIAL LEXICON SUCH AS "CONSULTATION" AND "THE RIGHT TO WORK" TO MAKE AN UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF ARTISTIC FREEDOM. WE ARE NOT SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THE LEADERSHIP IS OF ONE MIND ABOUT THE FILMS. A POLISH JOURNALIST TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON MARCH 25 THAT FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK PERSONALLY SENT WAJDA, WHO IS IN THE UNITED STATES, A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM AFTER GIEREK REVIEWED "MAN OF MARBLE." HOWEVER, POLITYKA FILM EDITOR ZYGMUNT KALUZYNSKI'S REVIEW (REF) WAS TWICE REFUSED BY THE CENSORS. HE DECIDED NOT TO PUBLISH HIS PIECE RATHER THAN MAKE THE REQUIRED CHANGES. END COMMENT.

DAVIES

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## Message Attributes

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